

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook  
Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto:icworc@live.com)

**SUNDAY MASSES**  
**SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday 2:45 - 3:45 PM  
(or by appointment)

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
Parents and godparents of infants to be baptized are expected to participate in a preparation session. Call the Rectory to register for this process and set a date for the actual Baptism. For Baptism of adults please contact the Rectory.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**  
Please contact the rectory one year prior to your desired wedding date

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
Father Walter can be called whenever someone can benefit from this sacrament of healing.

**PROTECTING OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN**  
If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you want to share feelings of hurt or betrayal, call Cathaleen Peloquin, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (direct, confidential line).

## **RECTORY ADDRESS**

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605  
Phone: 508-754-8419  
Fax: 508-306-9718  
Religious Education Phone: 508-868-8119  
Rectory Hours: M: 9:30am-2:30pm, T: 9:30am-2:30pm  
W: 9:30am-2:30pm, F: 9:30am-2:30pm

**MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, Bishop of Worcester**  
**REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR**  
**REV. ENOCH KYEREMATENG, IN RESIDENCE**  
**KEVIN DEIGNAN, PERMANENT DEACON**  
**FRANK MYSKA, PERMANENT DEACON**  
**MARY SYCKS, ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER**  
**C. HENRY MASON, MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
**BRIDGET KLOFFT, CANTOR**  
**ROBERT NOBERINI, PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**  
**MATTHEW FOSTER, PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**  
**LYNDA MONAHAN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR**

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM**  
**THURSDAY 8:00 AM**

**NEW PARISHIONERS**  
Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community.  
Please contact the Rectory and introduce yourself.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat.	Sep 05	4:00 PM	Jeannette Lindsay, Birthday Mass, from the Ciccolini and Herrmann Family
Sun.	Sep 06	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Marie Riley, 12th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Sep 07	9:00 AM	Rita Bertozzi, from Family
Tues.	Sep 08	9:00 AM	Mike Rogers, from Young Shin, ( <i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> )
Wed.	Sep 09	9:00 AM	Thomas Kehoe, from Martin Geheran, ( <i>St. Peter Claver</i> )
Thurs.	Sep 10	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	Sep 12	4:00 PM	Bill Rourke, from Dory, Emily and Family
Sun.	Sep 13	7:30 AM	John and Mary Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

IF TWO OR THREE PRAY TOGETHER: Mt 18:19; “How important a place the unanimity and harmony of brothers hold with God! We can know from this very fact that the Lord has clearly said that went two or three pray in unanimity, the Father grants everything from heaven. For with God nothing is more pleasing than brotherly peace, nothing better than unanimity and harmony, according to what is written: ‘Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.’ And again: ‘There is great peace among those who love your name, and there is no stumbling block for them.’ And in another place: ‘The God who makes us live in harmony in the house.’ So Isaiah also testified: ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘our God, give us peace. For you have given us everything.’ That this harmony of brothers is pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit declared through Solomon, saying: ‘There are three things which are pleasing to God and men: harmony of brothers, love of one’s neighbor, and the union of man and woman.’ So quite rightly the Lord in this passage testifies that when two or three come together on earth, whatever they ask for, all is granted by the Father.”

*St. John Chrysostom (347-407)*

**RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE**

*Mortal and Venial Sin:* “In defining and distinguishing between mortal and venial sins, St. Thomas and the theology of sin that has its source in him could not be unaware of the biblical reference and therefore of the concept of spiritual death. According to St. Thomas, in order to live spiritually man must remain in communion with the supreme principle of life, which is God, since God is the ultimate end of man's being and acting. Now sin is a disorder perpetrated by man against this life principle. And when ‘through sin, the soul commits a disorder that reaches the point of turning away from its ultimate end - God - to which it is bound by charity, then the sin is mortal; on the other hand, whenever the disorder does not reach the point of a turning away from God, the sin is venial.’ For this reason venial sin does not deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace, friendship with God, charity and therefore eternal happiness, whereas just such a deprivation is precisely the consequences of mortal sin. Furthermore when sin is considered from the point of view of the punishment it merits, for St. Thomas and other doctors mortal sin is the sin which, if unforgiven, leads to eternal punishment; whereas venial sin is the sin that merits merely temporal punishment (that is, a partial punishment which can be expiated on earth or in purgatory).” From *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, Pope St. John Paul II

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30- 28:7

Psalm: 103

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/30/2020**

Sunday Ordinary \$ 3,651.00  
 Online Donations 24-30 Aug 2020 \$ 155.00

**HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS**

Because of the situation with the present pandemic, there will be times when no one will be available after Mass to sell food cards for Hope for Housing. In this situation, please speak with Fr. Riley before or after Mass so he can sell what you would like to purchase. This ministry is much too important for our Parish and local community to place aside as it assists families who are struggling to find and maintain proper housing. Purchasing cards makes it easy for us who shop at any of the stores represented, while supporting a most important form of Christian ministry. Thank you for your understanding and continued support for Hope for Housing in and through our Parish. This past week card sales amounted to \$475.00.

**THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY**

*INTUITION:* “Christian tradition has always held that human beings can know God through ‘the things God has made.’ The fundamental question is, What kind of knowledge can women and men have of God? Is the only knowledge possible in this life a knowledge *about God* arrived at by natural reasoning or by revelation? Or is it possible to have, even in this life, an intuitive knowledge of God? The word *intuition* derives from Latin *intueri*, which means ‘to consider, look at, gaze at.’ It can have the meaning ‘to look someone right in the face.’ This last usage of the term can introduce us to the meaning that is traditionally given to intuition, namely, instantaneous apprehension or immediate knowing of something or someone without going through any conscious process of reasoning. This is not an uncommon experience in human life. For example, a person can come to a decision that she or he instinctively knows to be right, without having gone through, consciously at least, a reasoning process to reach that decision. Is such an intuitive process operative in coming to know God? Most systematic theology has been reluctant to give an affirmative answer to this question. It reserves the immediate apprehension of God to the beatific vision that comes only after death. Mystics are not quite so cautious, and some would maintain that an immediate knowing of God, in which the subject-object dichotomy disappears, is possible in the contemplative experience. Thomas Merton puts it well: ‘In the depths of contemplative prayer there seems to be no division between subject and object and there is no reason to make any statement about God or about oneself. He IS and in this reality absorbs everything else.’”

**INFORMATION NIGHT FOR POLAND TRIP, SEP. 14th**

An information session for the upcoming trip to Poland in April will be held in our Church Basement on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. This session will explain in detail the makeup of this wonderful trip to the land where St. Pope John Paul II was born and raised, as well as being a Catholic country with a tremendously rich history. All are invited to attend this 1-hour gathering with the opportunity to ask questions to Fr. Riley, who will lead the pilgrimage, and Callie Foster of our Parish who will assist in much of the itinerary. This trip is open for all people. Feel free to ask Fr. Riley any questions beforehand. Hope to see you there.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - Registration forms for the 2020-2021 Catechetical Year were mailed to all Religious Education families. Please fill out the registration and return it to the Rectory by August 23rd. We understand the concerns that parents have of their children safely returning to class. We will be following all CDC guidelines that we are following at Mass for our Religious Education Program. Currently we have a plan for in person classes as well as online classes. It is important to our Church to equip our parents and families with spiritual skills they can use at home to not only sustain faith, but make it thrive. If you have concerns of sending your children to participate class in person please contact Mary Sycks.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

As all violent events will eventually do, be it Mother Nature or events caused by humans, 9/11 brought forth countless heroes who assisted strangers in their time of greatest need. Many heroes sacrificed their lives in attempts to save others, such as the New York firefighter and police departments. (At this present time, it's more than useful to recall events where police and firefighters responded with straightaway bravery and concern for the good of others, to save life and not destroy it, as opposed to having their hands tied by politicians with an agenda that allows violence to occur). September 11, however, will always first be seen as a day of violent attack, even though it brought forth the best from others.

The peace we yearn for though, is the peace of Mary, and not a level of peace that may settle in years after a violent attack. From the time of September 2001 to September 2020, New York City and our nation was somehow able to sustain a violent assault, establish some semblance of peace years later, but have now returned to other forms of violence again. Instead of planes flying into tall buildings, we now have anarchy (looting, destruction and killing) on the streets of certain cities that remind us we still live in a time of violence, uncertainty, and chaos. It seems like the Roman Empire is not so far away in 2020.

When considering these two events above; the birth of Mary on September 8 a few years before the birth of Jesus, and September 11, 2001, the peaceful contrast between them could not be starker. One comes from heaven; the other comes strictly from our fallen humanity. One is peace; the other is war. One is love; the other is fear. One is Divine; the other refuses God.

Everyday is a choice for us. Do we choose and accept the birth 14-18 years before the birth of the Prince of Peace, the overwhelming peace of Mary's birth and entire life? Or, do we choose to cooperate with the worst side of 9/11? As Christians, we cannot lose sight of the truth that violence will, never lead to lasting justice. Only the ways of sustained peaceful protest and peaceful encounter will change systems that do not reflect the love of God. The best modern-day example of this would be Martin Luther King Jr. and how he approached the ridding of laws that discriminated against African-Americans in the worst possible ways. MLK was not Mary by any means. He was a sinner who fell short, and would have been the first person to humbly say so. But his peaceful example of taking on an entire system remains relevant for Christians.

With Jesus being the Prince of Peace for the world, his Mother Mary is certainly the Mother of Peace. She is the created human example of how to approach adversity and the crooked ways of our world. As her blessed birthday is upon us this week, feel free to take a moment to reflect on Mary's absolute ways of peace in a broken world. All Christians are to reject the ways of violence when it comes to changing systems that make others less than human. We do not mimic the ways of the Roman Empire, Barabbas or 9/11. We imitate the peace and godly goodness of Mary and her Son, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

### **FOOD PANTRY**

Our Parish Food Pantry is seeking donations of food at this time (and always) of canned vegetables, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, pasta, and any non-perishable item that can be given to those who come to our door on Mondays. Thank you.

### **TRIP TO POLAND APRIL 2021**

Our Parish trip to Poland has been rescheduled for next year. The new dates for the trip will be April 12-22, 2021. The cost of the trip is \$3300, and single supplement \$699. We will visit cities and sites such as Warsaw and its historic monuments, Malbork Castle, Gdansk, Torun and the house where Nicolaus Copernicus was born, Czestochowa, a tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Krakow and a visit to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Wawel Royal Castle, as well as the Jewish Quarter, the birthplace of St. John Paul II and the Museum of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, and other cultural experiences of Poland. Consider joining us on this wonderful trip of religion, history, and culture to beautiful Poland. We have 32 seats reserved for this trip with 16 of them presently filled. Sign-up sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at [ic-worc.com](http://ic-worc.com) and sent to Fr. Riley at the Church. Any questions please call Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Callie Foster at 508-397-5883. Thank you.

### **FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION**

We thank all our parishioners who continue to fast for one meal and abstain from meat each Friday as we commemorate our Lord's saving act. This wonderful Catholic tradition is reemerging, calling us to be mindful of our Lord's crucifixion every Friday of the year. Such a particular awareness in our lives can only deepen our faith and love in Christ. As we fast and abstain, we do so each week for an intention that is to us on a local, national, or world level, always effecting our faith. Next Friday's intention is for *harmony and peace among nations and communities*.

### **HONORING MARRIED COUPLES ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, a public celebration of the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will not be held this year. Congratulatory certificates from Bishop McManus to couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2020 will be issued by postal mail. Couples wishing to receive certificates should complete the registration form at [www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass) by October 15 or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

### **NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH IN WORCESTER**

**The 9th Annual Novena to St. Joseph** will take place at Christ the King Parish on Monday evenings this fall. There will be prayer for the seriously ill, for improvements in palliative care, for the end of the pandemic, and to raise awareness about all attempts to end human life unnaturally as in the case of physician assisted suicide or euthanasia. Beginning **September 14** the Novena will be celebrated **nine consecutive Mondays from 7:15 to 8 pm**. This year's dates and homilists/speakers are: Msgr. Thomas Sullivan (Sept. 14); Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone (Sept. 21); Bishop Robert J. McManus (Sept. 28); Fr. Stephen Gemme (Oct. 5); Fr. John Gavin, SJ (Oct. 12); Msgr. Peter Beaulieu (Oct. 19); Catherine Pimley (Oct. 26); 'Jo' Massarelli (Nov. 2); and Msgr. Thomas Sullivan (Nov. 9). The names of those people who are terminally or critically ill, and who will be prayed for during the Novena, can be mailed to Msgr. Sullivan at the parish (1052 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602), or you can call them in (508-754-5361), or you can email them to [tsullivan5@mac.com](mailto:tsullivan5@mac.com).

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

There's a vivid contrast this week for two early September events when considering the faith we believe and the world in which we live. The first event, connected to the faith we believe, was the birth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We celebrate Our Lady's date of birth on September 8 each year, exactly nine months after December 8, the day of her Immaculate Conception.

When considering the birth of Blessed Mary, one of the first of many words that defines her life is the word peace. Mary, like the rest of us, was born into a world surrounded by violence. Being from the unknown village of Nazareth, Mary was born and was raised by Anna and Joachim far from the daily violence experienced in Jerusalem and other hot spots in antiquity. Yet, she was born at a time when the Romans dominated and controlled the known world, and did so through violent means when necessary. There's the well-known Latin term for the peace the Roman Empire sought in their subjugation of others, *Pax romana*. But *Pax romana* was not the sort of peace we think about when considering the true meaning of this virtuous word. *Pax romana* meant keeping the peace at all costs, which translated into peace through the killing and destruction of anyone who challenged the Empire. Which explains the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. along with the sacking of Jerusalem in the early 130's. The Romans made the recent events in Portland, Oregon look like a playground, while not belittling the violent horrors in that modern-day city and a few other places where good people have been robbed of their livelihoods and lives.

Contrasting the Roman sort of peace with the peace that the Virgin from Nazareth brought into the world in her birth reveals a stark difference. Mary's peace was preparation for the birth of her Son, the Prince of Peace, the One who rejected all forms of violence, bringing about true justice, ironically, through the violence of his own death. When Mary was born on September 8 (or whatever the accurate date is) around the year 16-20 B.C., a powerful scent of peace was brought forth for the world to behold to this day, lasting until the end of time.

In the celebration of Our Lady's birthday this Tuesday, we're living at a time when it's best to recall and consider the heavenly impact of her birth. An impact that brought forth hope and grace like no other birth previous to hers. Not even Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, or any of the great names in the Old Testament can stand aside the birth of Mary and the peace it represents. Hers was a life of personal non-violence. In her everyday sinless thoughts and actions, Mary was graced by God with sharing and expressing with all others the perfect peace of heaven, while at the same time witnessing and experiencing the violence of the world in which she lived. Most notably, of course, the violence of her Son's death. While the Blessed Mother had reason to "be violent" in thought and deed, her choice was always and forever the choice of radical, unabashed peace and forgiveness. How many people presently living can learn from her example and make this world a safer place? The answer is *very many*.

The second event we consider this week, the worldly one if you will, is the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11 and what that date means for Americans and the world. It was a day that most of us remember with the greatest fear and sadness. The initial thoughts of "What was happening?" and "What does this all mean?" were thoughts that caused bewilderment and uncertainty on a level many of us had not yet known. Only the World War II generation could understand such an attack and its repercussions. The events of that date in New York City 2001 would "change the world" as all catastrophic events do. It was something the Romans would have perpetrated against the Jewish people or any other group who assailed their oppressive power and subjugation.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Sep 05	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 06	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 07	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 08	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 09	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 10	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Sep 11	7:00 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
Sat.	Sep 12	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 13	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**HOLY HOUR FOR LAY PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR  
PRIESTS**

On **Friday, Sept. 11 from 7 - 8 pm**, a holy hour for lay people to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us for this important act of service and prayer for our priests. *Repeats every second Friday of the month.*

**YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER  
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City  
& Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Envelopes yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Number of People in Household \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE, TEAR THIS OFF AND PLACE IN THE  
COLLECTION BASKET! THANK YOU!**